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Family Letters

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Paul Salerni

Family Letters

on a poem by Dana Gioia

commissioned by Eileen Wavrek Wescoe's family
in celebration of
her 80th birthday
and the musical legacy of the Wavrek family

Premiered by SATORI, January 31, 2015

Mezzo-soprano

Flute

Clarinet in A

Violin

Violoncello

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Family Letters

Dana Gioia

Paul Salerni

Andante

$\text{♩} = 60$

Mezzo-soprano

Flute

Clarinet in A

Violin

Violoncello

p

poco meno mosso ad lib.

pizz.

f *mp* *p*

p *pp*

pp

The dead say lit - tle

A tempo

4

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pp

pp

pp

in their let - ters they have - n't said be - fore. We

poco meno mosso ad lib. A tempo

7

M-S. *p* find no se-crets, and yet how diff-erent eve-ry sent ence sounds

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

un po marcato

10

M-S. *mf* heard a - cross the years. My

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc. *p* *arco mp*

un po marcato

13

M-S. *sostenuto*

fa - ther breaks my heart simp - ly by be - ing so

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

mp

mp

15

M-S. *p* *mf*

young and hand - some. He's half my age, with

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

mp

p

arco

17 *p* *mf*

M-S. jet - black hair. Look at him in his na - vy un - i - form

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

20 *p*

M-S. grinn-ing be - side his dive - bomb - er.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz. *p*

24

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

f

Come

f

arco

pp

f

26

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

back, Dad! I want to shout. Come back, Dad! I want to shout.

30 *mp* *p*

M-S. He says he miss - es all of us (though I have-n't yet been

Fl. *mp*

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p pizz.* *arco*

33 *mp*

M-S. born). He writes from pla - ces I

Fl. *p* *mp*

Cl. *p* *mp*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *pizz.*

35

M-S. *p*

ne - ver knew he saw, and ev - ery one he men - tions now is

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc. *arco*

ne - ver knew he saw, and ev - ery one he men - tions now is

38

M-S. *mp* *mf*

dead. There is a large, long pho - to - graph

Fl.

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *mp* *pizz.* *mf* *arco*

Vc. *mp pizz.* *arco*

dead. There is a large, long pho - to - graph

42 9

M-S. *mp* *mf*

Fl.

Cl.

Vln. *mp* *pizz.*

Vc. *mp*

curled like a di - plo - ma - a ban - quet six - ty years a - go. — My

45

M-S.

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *pp* *arco* *pizz.*

Vc. *mf* *pizz.*

pa - rents sit un - com - forta - bly a - mong tab - les of

47 *f* *mp* *pp*

M-S. *dark - suit - ed stran - gers. The*

Fl. *p* *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *f* *p* *pizz.*

Vc. *p* *arco*

50 *mf*

M-S. *mil - dewed pa - per reeks of re - gret. I*

Fl. *3*

Cl. *3*

Vln.

Vc.

52

M-S. won - der what song the band was play - ing, just out of

Fl. *mp*

Cl.

Vln. *arco mp*

Vc. *pizz. mf* *arco*

3

3

54 *f* *p*

M-S. frame, as the pho - to - graph - er arr - anged your smiles.

Fl. *f* *p*

Cl. *f* *p*

Vln. *f pizz* *p* *arco*

Vc. *f* *pizz* *p*

3

3

3

57

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

arco

mp

A

57

59

molto rit.

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz.

mp

mf

mp

mp

mp

waltz?

A

fox - trot?

6

59

Tempo di fox-trot

13

63 - ♩=90

M-S.

A fox - trot!

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

p

pizz.

arco

3

3

pizz.

arco

3

3

pizz.

arco

3

3

pizz.

arco

3

3

mp

3

3

67

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

f

pizz.

arco

3

3

pizz.

arco

3

3

pizz.

arco

3

3

pizz.

arco

3

3

71

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz. *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

74

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz. *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

p

mp

78

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz. arco

82

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pp

pp

pp

pp

86

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Tempo di waltz

♩=180

89

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

A

waltz!

mp

p pizz.

93

M-S. *mp* *Get out there*

Fl. *p*

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p*

100

M-S. *on the floor and dance! You don't have for - e - ver.*

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

107

M-S.

You don't have for

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.



113

M-S.

e - ver.

mp

arco

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.



120

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

mp

mf

124

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

mf

f

mf

f

127

M-S. *f*

Fl. *f* *Get*

Cl. *mf* *f*

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

131

M-S. *out there on the floor and dance! You don't*

Fl. *ff* *f*

Cl. *fp* *f*

Vln. *mf* *f*

Vc. *f pizz.*

136

M-S. *have for - e - ver.*

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

molto rit.

141

M-S. *You don't have for - e - ver.*

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

p

p

arco

22

Tempo di fox-trot ma meno mosso**Tempo di waltz
ma meno mosso**

147 ♩=80

♩=140

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

p

mp

pizz. arco

p

Tempo di fox-trot ma ancora meno mosso

rit. . . .

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz.

arco

Tempo di waltz
ma ancora meno mosso

fox-trot and waltz tempi, almost
as if the eighth in this bar equals
the quarter in the next.

23

155

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz.

arco

159

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz.

pizz.

arco

pp

pp

pp pizz.

arco

24

165 =60

pizz.

171 *p*

M-S. What does it cost to send a post-card to the un-der-world?

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc. *pp*

poco meno mosso

Tempo di waltz ma poco meno mosso 25

♩=145

174

M-S. I'll buy a pen - ny stamp from

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc. arco p pizz. arco

180

M-S. World War II and mail it

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc. p arco pizz.

186

M-S. 
down-town at the old post off - ice just as the

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

190

M-S. 
court-house clock strikes twelve.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc. *pizz.* *arco*

Tempo primo (Andante)

27

196 $\text{♩} = 60$

M-S. *pp* 3 3
Sure-ly the ghost of some

Fl. *pp* 3

Cl.

Vln. *pp* *sul A*

Vc. *p*

200

M-S. pos - tal work - er still makes his

Fl. 3

Cl. *pp* 3 3

Vln. *sul A*

Vc.

204

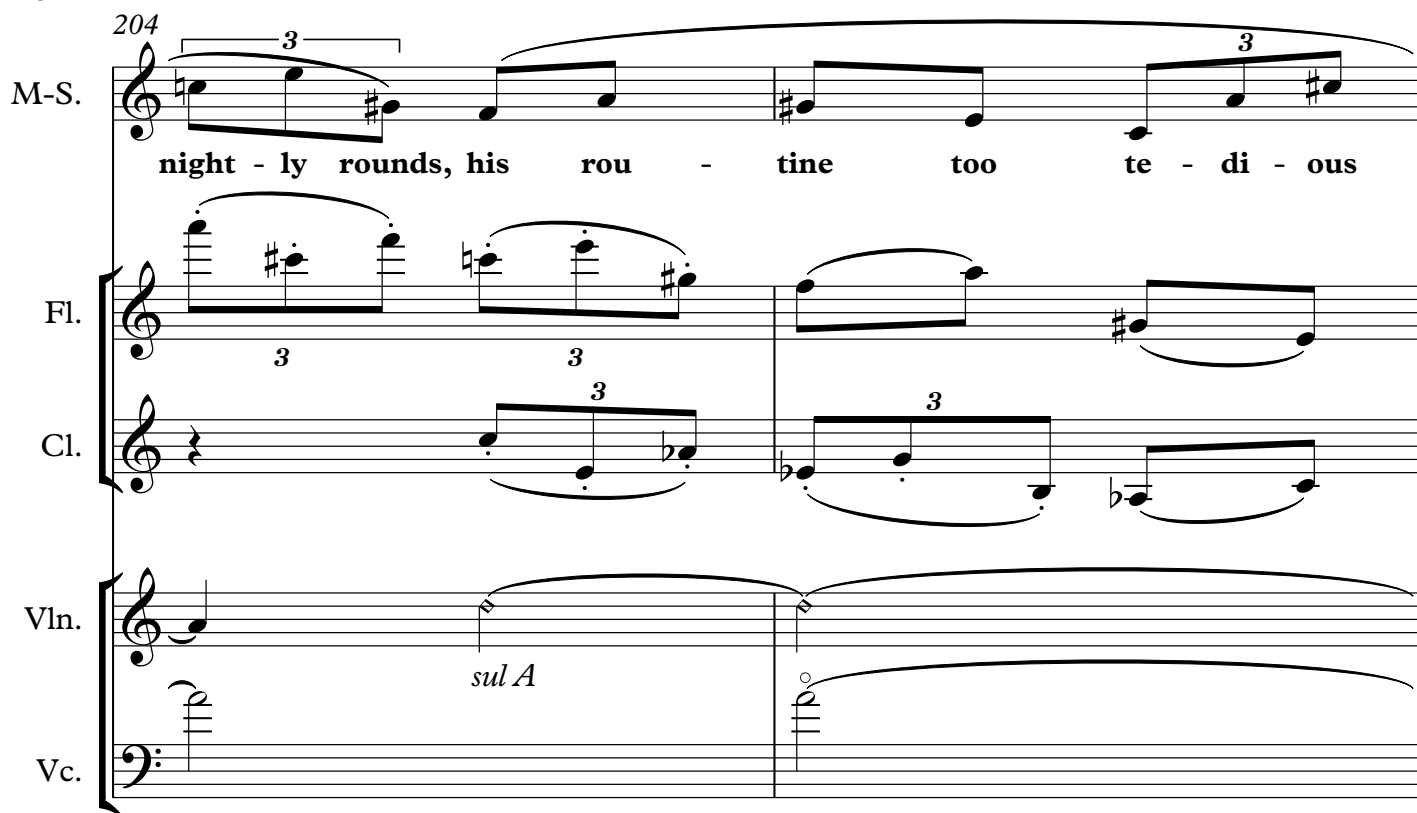
M-S. *night - ly rounds, his rou - tine too te - di - ous*

Fl. *3*

Cl. *3*

Vln. *sul A*

Vc.



206

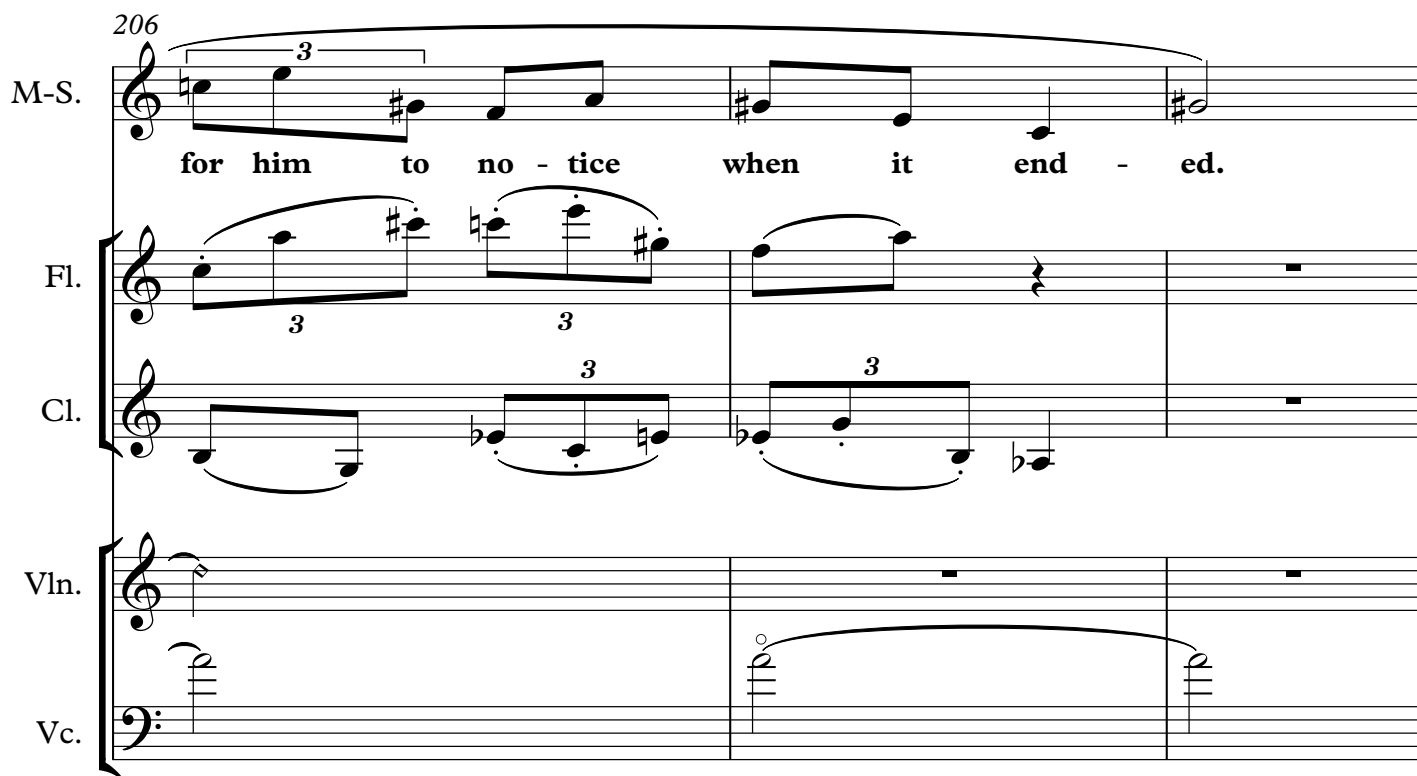
M-S. *for him to no - tice when it end - ed.*

Fl. *3*

Cl. *3*

Vln.

Vc.



209 29

M-S.

He works so slow - ly

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

simile

213

M-S.

he moves back in time

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

219

M-S. *car - ry-ing our dead let - ters to our lost ad - dress - es.*

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pp

pizz.

arco

224

M-S. *It's*

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

f

f arco

Poco meno mosso e serio

31

228 $\text{♩} = 55$

M-S. sil - ly to get sen - ti - men - tal. The dead have moved on.

Fl. *f*

Cl. *f*

Vln.

Vc.

Tempo di waltz

231 $\text{♩} = 160$

M-S. *mp* So should we. But is - n't it e - qual - ly

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pizz. p*

234

M-S. *sim - ple - mind-ed to miss the spe - cial*

Fl.

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p pizz.*

Vc. *arco*

238

M-S. *ex - per - tise of the de - part-ed in cla - ri - fy-ing our*

Fl. *p*

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *pp arco*

Vc. *p pizz. arco mp*

244

M-S. *long* *range*

Fl.

Cl. *mp*

Vln. *arco* *mp*

Vc. *pizz.*

248 *f* *rit.*

M-S. *plans?*

Fl. *mp*

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *pizz. mf* *f* *arco*

Vc. *mf* *arco* *pizz.* *f*

Tempo di fox-trot ma poco meno mosso

34

252 - ♩=85

M-S. *mf*

Fl. **They**

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p arco*

256

M-S. *mf*

Fl.

Cl. *mf*

Vln.

Vc. *arco* *pizz.* *p arco*

ne - ver let us for - get that the line be - tween

259

M-S. *f*
them and us is on - ly temp or - a - ry.

Fl. *p* *mf* *mp*

Cl. *p* *mf* *mp*

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *pizz.* *mf* *mp*

263

M-S. *f*
is on - ly temp - or - a - ry.

Fl. *f*

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Tempo di waltz ma poco piu mosso

36

266 ♩=180

M-S. *f* *Get out there and*

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mf*

272

M-S. *dance! — the let - ters shout*

Fl. *f* *mf*

Cl. *f* *mf*

Vln. *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mf*

278

M-S. *mf* *mp*

add - ing, Love

Fl. *f* *mp*

Cl. *f* *mp*

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *f* *arco* *mp*

284

M-S. *al - ways.*

Fl. *p*

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p* 3

Vc. *p*

290

M-S. *p*

Love al - ways.

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

297

M-S. *pp*

al - ways.

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

302

M-S. *mp*
al - - - ways.

Fl. *p* 3 3 *pp*

Cl.

Vln. *p* *pp* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vc.

306

M-S.

Fl. 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Cl. *p* *mp* 3 *f*

Vln. *mp* *p*

Vc.

40

310

M-S. *mf* *f*

Love al - - -

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Cl. *mp* *f* *mf*

Vln.

Vc.

313

M-S. *ways.*

Fl. *f* *mf*

Cl. *f* *sfp*

Vln. *f* *sfp*

Vc. *f* *p* *mf*

317

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

f *sfp* *mf*

mf *sfp*

sfp

321

M-S.

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

mf

Can't

f *sfp* *f* *sfp*

f *sfp* *f* *mf*

f *sfp* *f* *sfp*

mp *f* *sfp*

325

M-S. *Can't wait to*

Fl. *mf p*

Cl. *p*

Vln. *mf p*

Vc. *mf*

329

M-S. *get home! Get out*

Fl. *ff mf*

Cl. *ff mf*

Vln. *ff mf*

Vc. *ff pizz. mf*

335

M-S. *there and dance!*

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

f

f

f

341

M-S. *Can't wait to get home! _____*

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

mf

mf

mf

346

M-S. *Love al - ways. Can't wait*

Fl.

Cl. *f mf*

Vln. *f mf f*

Vc. *f mf f*

352 *ff*

M-S. *to get home!*

Fl.

Cl. *f ff f*

Vln. *ff f*

Vc. *ff f*

arco ff f

Tempo primo (andante)

357 $\text{♩} = 60$ 45

M-S. *p* *rit.* 3 And soon we will be.

Fl. *ff* *p*

Cl. *sfp* *p* 3

Vln. *ff* *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *ff* *mp* *p*

363 *pp*

M-S. home. And soon we will be.

Fl.

Cl. *pp*

Vln.

Vc.

Largo e tenere

46

$\text{♩} = 40$

368 - - - - -

M-S.

See you there. _____

Fl.

pp *ppp*

Cl.

ppp

Vln.

pp *arco*

Vc.

pp *ppp*